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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01944 061441Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------017974 061442Z /46
O 061415Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7487
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1944

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR UNSC LE IS
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE TROOPS

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN BOUTROS APRIL 5 REPORTED OUR 1920 I TOLD HIM OF PRES. CHAMOUN'S REMARKS REPORTED OUR 1917 ABOUT DANGERS OF DENUDING CENTRAL LEBANON OF TROOPS IN ORDER TO SEND THEM SOUTH. BOUTROS SAID NEVERTHELESS LEBANON HAD SOME TROOPS WHICH COULD BE SENT SOUTH AND THEY WERE GOING TO SEND THREE COMPANIES OF 100 MEN EACH FOR THE TIME BEING. HE DID NOT GIVE ME SCHEDULE.

2. DISCUSSED QUESTION AT SOME LENGTH WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR ARGOD THIS MORNING. HE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR LEONARD HAD SUGGESTED FRENCH WEIGH IN WITH LEBANESE AND HE GUESSED HE WOULD GO SEE BOUTROS, ALTHOUGH IN HIS VIEW PROBLEM REALLY WAS LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF TROOPS. HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT BRIEFLY WITH PRIME MINISTER HOSS LAST WEEK AND HOSS HAD SAID LEBANON WAS
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UNABLE TO SEND TROOPS.

3. ARGOD AND I ALSO DISCUSSED IMPASSE AT TYRE. HE SAID FRENCH TROOPS WERE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND WITHOUT RESTRAINT, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY PLO PATROLS AND THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL INSTANCES OF PALESTINIANS TRYING TO STEAL THEIR BERETS FROM THEM. HE FEELS THAT PERHAPS LEBANESE WOULD

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BE BETTER OFF IF INSTEAD OF SAYING CAIRO ACCORD WAS DEAD, THEY CALLED UPON PALESTINIANS TO OBSERVE IT. PALESTINIANS HAD NO RIGHT TO MAINTAIN NUMBER OF ARMED MEN THEY HAD SOUTH OF LITANI UNDER CAIRO ACCORD. TO SAY THAT ACCORD WAS DEAD WOULD IN HIS VIEW SIMPLY CONVINCE THE PALESTINIANS THAT LEBANESE WANTED TO ELIMINATE THEM AND SPUR THEM TO TAKE UP THEIR ARMS IN SELF DEFENSE.

4. COMMENT: ARGOD HAS A POINT WITH REGARD TO CAIRO ACCORD. THE IDEA IS ANATHEMA TO CHRISTIANS AT MOMENT, AS WELL AS TO US, BUT IT MIGHT BE WAY OUT OF PRESENT DILEMMA. SOME MODUS VIVENDI WITH PALESTINIANS IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT, OR THERE WILL BE ARMED CONFRONTATION SOONER OR LATER.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
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